

Appl. No. 10/660,186
Amdt. dated August 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2006

Docket No. A01477

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 11-20 remain in this application. Claims 7-10 are withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement stated in the above-identified Office Action.

Amendments:

The only amendments submitted at this time are corrections of obvious typographical errors in claims 1, 15, 16, and 17. Applicants submit that these corrections do not add new matter to the application.

Response to rejection of claims 1-6 and 11-20 over Irie

In the above-identified Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 11-20 under 35 USC §102(b) as being obvious over US 5,959,028 (Irie).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants submit that Irie fails to teach or suggest the limitation of the present claims regarding non-reactive volatile compounds.

Irie teaches an invention that "provides a curable resin composition" that comprises three ingredients, labeled "(a)" and "(b)" and "(c)" (col. 2, lines 7-14). Irie further teaches as follows (col. 6, lines 19-21):

All of components (a), (b), and (c) are dissolved or dispersed in an organic solvent conventionally used in the coating industry.

The term "solvent" is well known in the coatings industry to mean a substance that is volatile and is non-reactive with the components of the coating. The examples of solvents given by Irie (col. 6, lines 21-32) are well known as volatile, non-reactive substances. Thus, Irie teaches compositions that are dissolved or dispersed in a volatile, non-reactive substance.

Additionally, it is well known that, in order for a composition to have ingredients that are "dissolved or dispersed" in a solvent, as in Irie's invention, the amount of solvent in the composition must be much more than 5% by weight of the composition. Irie's

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Examples illustrate this generalization. For instance, Irie's Production Example 1 has 49.4 % nonvolatiles (col. 7, line 13) and thus has 50.6% volatile compounds. Irie uses Production Example 1 to formulate his "Example 1." In Example 1, Irie teaches a formulation as follows:

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>solid parts</u>	<u>volatile parts</u>
Production Example 1	200	205
PETA	50	
TBABr	2	
TINUBIN	10	
SANOL LS-400	5	

Thus, Irie's Example 1 has 205 parts volatiles out of a total of 472 parts, for a volatile amount of 43%. Irie teaches that Examples 2-30 follow Example 1 (col. 8, line 48). Irie also discloses Example 31, which contains at least 10% volatiles in each ingredient, plus isopropyl alcohol in the amount of 7 parts out of 87 parts total (i.e., 8% isopropyl alcohol).

In sum, Irie teaches formulations that contain much higher quantities than 5% of volatile, non-reactive compounds. Irie does not teach or suggest the use of formulations with 5% or less of non-reactive volatile compounds.

In contrast, the compositions recited in the present claims contain 5% or less of non-reactive volatile compounds. Consequently, Applicants submit that Irie fails to teach or suggest the compositions of the present claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that the present claims are novel over Irie.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reexamine the claimed subject matter, to withdraw the rejections of the claimed subject matter and to allow claims 1-6 and 11-20 at this time. If, however, there remain any open issues which the Examiner believes can be resolved by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned agent.

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No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this amendment; however, if any such fees, including petition or extension fees, are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them, as well as to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 18-1850.

Respectfully Submitted,



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